

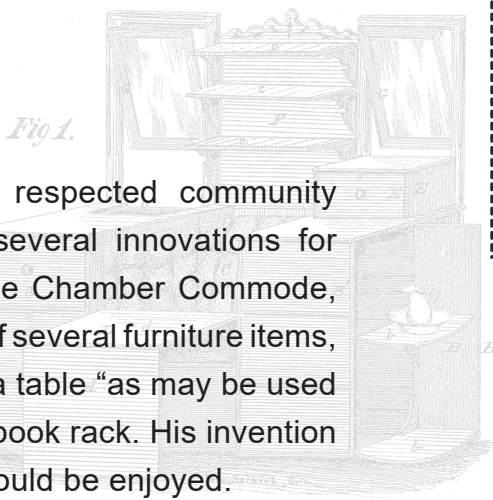


# Exemplary African American Kitchen & Bath Innovations

## Celebrating Black History

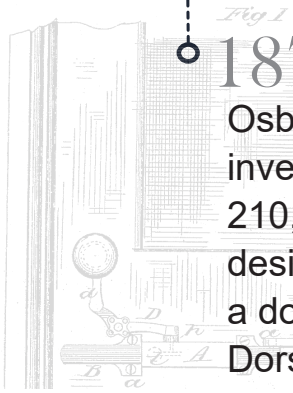
1872 *Thomas Elkins*

Thomas Elkins was a pharmacist, respected community member, abolitionist and patented several innovations for the home. In 1872, Elkins patents the Chamber Commode, Patent No. 122,518. It is constructed of several furniture items, including an upholstered easy chair, a table "as may be used for sewing, food or for writing" and a book rack. His invention embraces the bath as a room that should be enjoyed.



1878 *Osborn Dorsey*

Osborn Dorsey was around 16 when he invented the Door Holding Device. Patent No. 210,764, published in 1878. Dorsey Although designed to secure a door, the drawing shows a doorknob. Born a slave and freed as a baby, Dorsey is credited with inventing the doorknob as we know it today.



*John Stanard.*

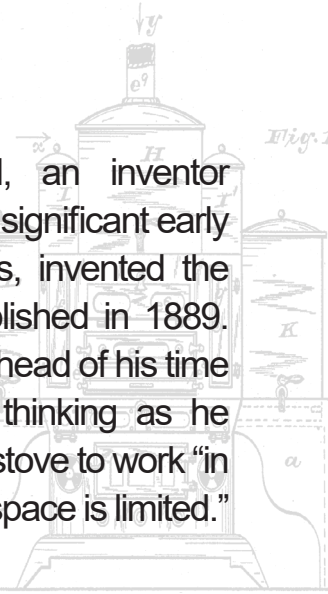
1891

In Patent No. 455,891, John Stanard said he invented "certain new and useful improvements in refrigeration." His improvement consisted of a separate freezer unit from the central refrigerator unit, which remains today.



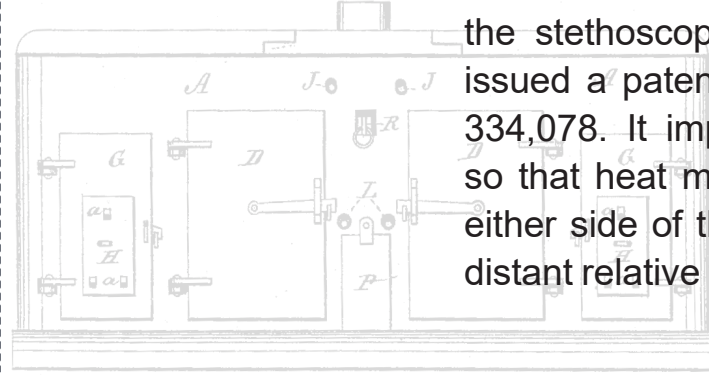
1889

John Stanard, an inventor who holds two significant early kitchen patents, invented the Oil Stove, published in 1889. Stanard was ahead of his time in his design thinking as he wanted his oil stove to work "in places where space is limited."



1876 *Thomas A. Carrington*

Thomas A. Carrington, who also invented the stethoscope in the same year, was issued a patent for a Range, Patent No. 334,078. It improved the current design so that heat may be variously applied at either side of the range, top or bottom, a distant relative to today's convection oven.



1882

Lewis Howard Latimer, a member of Thomas Edison's research team, improved upon the light bulb and invented the Process for Manufacturing Carbons. Patent No. 252,389, published in 1886. Without this improvement, we'd be changing light bulbs every 15 hours.

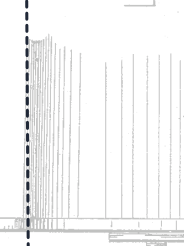


*Lewis H. Latimer*

1882

Lewis Howard Latimer invented the Globe-Supporter for Electric Lamps, Patent No. 255, 212, published in 1882, made electric lamps more stable. Latimer was a very prolific inventor of the 19th century and even invented an early form of air conditioning and air purification. He worked for Alexander Graham Bell and later became Electric's head draftsman earning \$20 a week. Latimer was born to escaped slaves and became an early civil rights advocate. He taught immigrants drawing and reading.

Fig. 1.



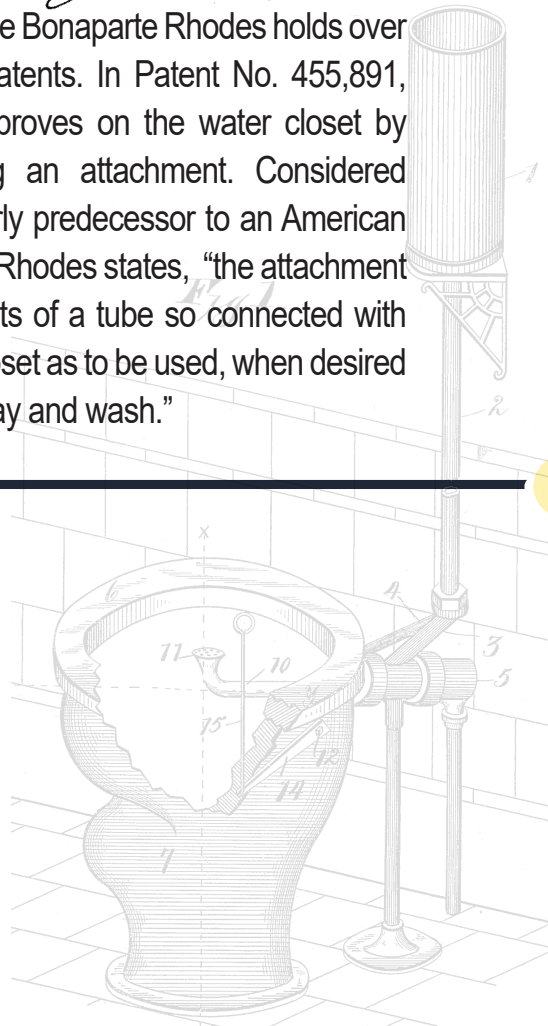
1892 *George A. Sampson*

George Sampson moved the process of drying clothes indoors. In 1892 he received a patent for a Clothes Dryer, Patent No. 476,416. Sampson's documentation states, "My invention relates to improvements in clothes-driers. The object of my invention is to suspend clothing in close relation to a stove by means of frames so constructed that they can be readily placed in proper position and put aside when not required for use."



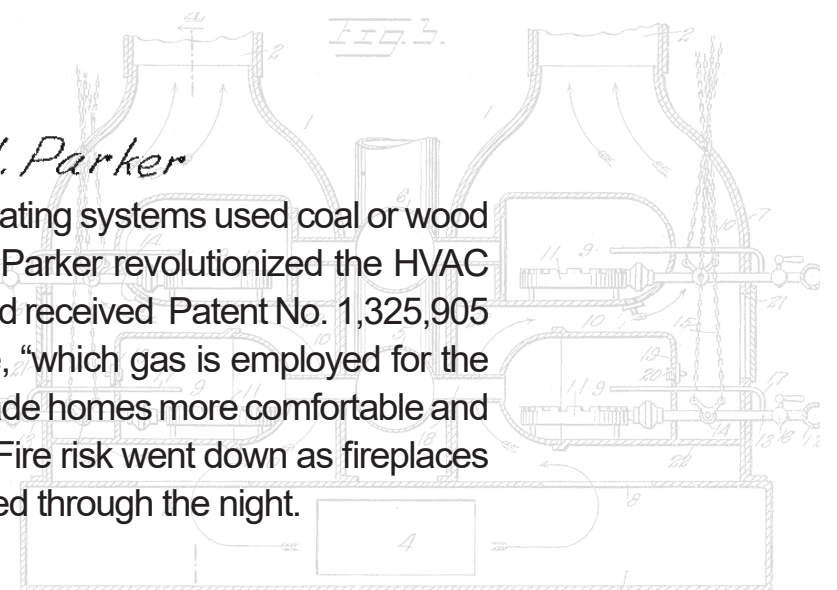
1899 *Jerome B. Rhodes*

Jerome Bonaparte Rhodes holds over 200 patents. In Patent No. 455,891, he improves on the water closet by adding an attachment. Considered an early predecessor to an American bidet, Rhodes states, "the attachment consists of a tube so connected with the closet as to be used, when desired to spray and wash."



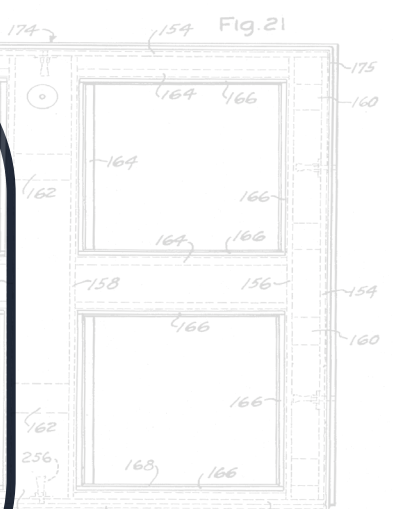
1891 *Alice H. Parker*

At a time when most heating systems used coal or wood for a fuel source, Alice Parker revolutionized the HVAC world when she filed and received Patent No. 1,325,905 for a Heating Furnance, "which gas is employed for the fuel." Her design not made homes more comfortable and also made them safer. Fire risk went down as fireplaces no longer ran unattended through the night.



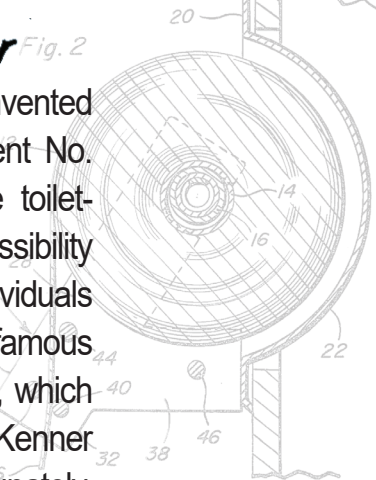
1950 **FREDERICK M. JONES**

Orphaned and with little education, Frederick McKinley Jones went on to be one of America's most prolific inventors. He holds over 60 patents in refrigeration and air-conditioning. Jones is most famous for inventing mobile refrigeration systems. He is the first African American elected to the American Society of Refrigeration Engineers. He and others have adopted his innovations to advance the field. Patent No. 2,535,682, Prefabricated Refrigerator Construction, was designed for homeowners who wanted a deep freezer unit but might find it difficult to put a preassembled one in a basement or other out of the way location.



1982 *Mary B. Kenner*

Washington D.C., Mary B. Kenner invented the Bathroom Tension Holder, Patent No. 4,354,643, published in 1982. The toilet-tissue holder provided greater accessibility for the visually impaired and individuals living with arthritis. She is most famous for the invention of the sanitary belt, which never earned her any money. It took Kenner 30 years to get a patent. Unfortunately, discrimination and societal taboos made it impossible for her to sell her most famous invention. Manufacturers began making her invention after many years passed, and it entered the public domain.



2013 **Marian Croak**

If you've ever called over the internet or through your smart home device, then you have used technology developed by Marian Croak. More and more smart home devices are starting to integrate Voice Over Internet Protocol technology. Marian Croak, the Vice President of Engineering at Google, developed the technology allowing video and phone calls over the internet, Patent No. 8,615,004. As comfort levels increase with VoIP's integration with the IoT, smart homes of the near future will have greater connectivity.

